

MM 99-25

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May 27, 1999

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FCC MAIL ROOM

TO: FCC

FROM: Terry Anderson, President  
Orchestration Developing Arts Studio

SUBJECT: Application for Low Power FM Radio Station Licensure

Please consider this as a Letter of Intent to secure a license for a low wattage emergency broadcasting system license. I'm writing this letter because we have no local radio service in our area. We're very interested in the concept of low power licenses presently being considered by the FCC.

My name is Terry Anderson and I am the president of Orchestration Developing Arts Studio. We are a 501 C-3 non-profit, publicly supported arts foundation. We are located on Orcas Island in the San Juan Islands. Orcas is one of four San Juan Islands accessible only by water or air.

There are 14,000 permanent residents on the 4 major islands that could receive low power service; 5,000 on San Juan Island, 4,000 on Orcas Island, 2,500 on Lopez Island and 500 on Shaw Island. The remainder reside on smaller, non-ferry served islands.

We live in a "white area." There are no transmitters specifically set up for the San Juan Islands. The closest transmitter is in Port Angeles and that service is specifically in place for that city. KGMI in Bellingham is directed toward that city and is difficult to receive here. Similarly, KLK in Anacortes is difficult to receive here also. All TV is received by cable, or quite poorly, by antenna. The transmitters located on Mt. Constitution (Orcas Island) are owned and operated by and for mainland populations and cannot be received clearly in the islands. High wattage stations in the San Juans create another problem because we are only a few miles from the Canadian border.

Winter happenings - power outages, unique weather events; snow, wind, etc. - are not covered by communication outlets on the mainland. Simply providing standby generators for any FM service set up under the new permits would mean instant emergency information. Weather situations affecting ferry service to the islands is available only by calling the Washington State Ferry System at this time. Updated ferry schedule information could be provided by FM service as well.

We are in a marine environment, but no regular marine service is available to residents unless they own VHF ship transmitters and receivers or weather radios.

Our local Fire Chief, Gary Bennett, describes our biggest problem as being the lack of an emergency broadcast system. Living on an island where life-threatening emergencies such as forest fires could rapidly escalate, without an emergency communication the loss of life could be devastating.

A community group formed by Orchestration is currently planning programming, addressing financing and studying the various levels of community involvement for people of all ages. Letters of support from the American Red Cross and Orcas Island Fire Chief Gary Bennett are enclosed. Our goal is to establish a low wattage FM emergency broadcast system as soon as possible. A low wattage FM station on Orcas Island would provide the basis for a badly needed emergency broadcast system capable of serving most of the San Juan Islands.

We would like to be among the first to be considered for low wattage broadcasting. We would appreciate copies of all new rulings along with associated paperwork as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention.

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OK

**American Red Cross**

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JUN 1 3 16 PM '99

AUDIO  
DIVISION

Anacortes-San Juan Islands Chapter  
P.O. Box 249  
Anacortes, Washington 98221-0249  
(360) 293-2911  
Fax (360) 293-0101

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MAY 28 1999

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May 27, 1999

TO: FCC

FROM: Diane Baxter, Coordinator  
Disaster Response Team  
American Red Cross

SUBJECT: Application for Low Power FM Radio Station Licensure by  
Orchestration Developing Arts Studio

This letter is being written in support of the subject applicant. We share the opinion that an islands-wide emergency communication system is necessary in light of the county-wide effort at Emergency Preparedness.

One of the goals of our Disaster Response Team is Preparedness. We have been working closely with the Orcas Island Fire Department who have asked that we take part in working on the communications aspect for Orcas Island. Since one of the tenets of our mission statements is to assist people in preparing for disasters, we take this responsibility seriously. A low wattage FM radio station could be invaluable as an education tool as well as vital in the event of a disaster in assisting with necessary information. It could be extremely useful in avoiding chaotic situations that could occur during these times.

If I can provide you with further information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for considering this application.

*Diane Baxter*

Diane Baxter  
90 Buoy Bay Rd.  
Olga, WA 98279  
Orcas Island

(360) 376-2114 (W)  
(360) 376-5413 (H)

Help Can't Wait



A United Way Agency



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**SAN JUAN COUNTY  
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 2**

JUN 1 3 15 PM '99

P.O. Box 217  
Eastsound, WA 98245  
Phone/Fax (360) 376-2331

AUDIO  
ENGINEER

May 21, 1999

Terry Anderson  
C/o Orchestrations  
Eastsound, WA 98245

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**MAY 28 1999**

Subject: Local Radio Station

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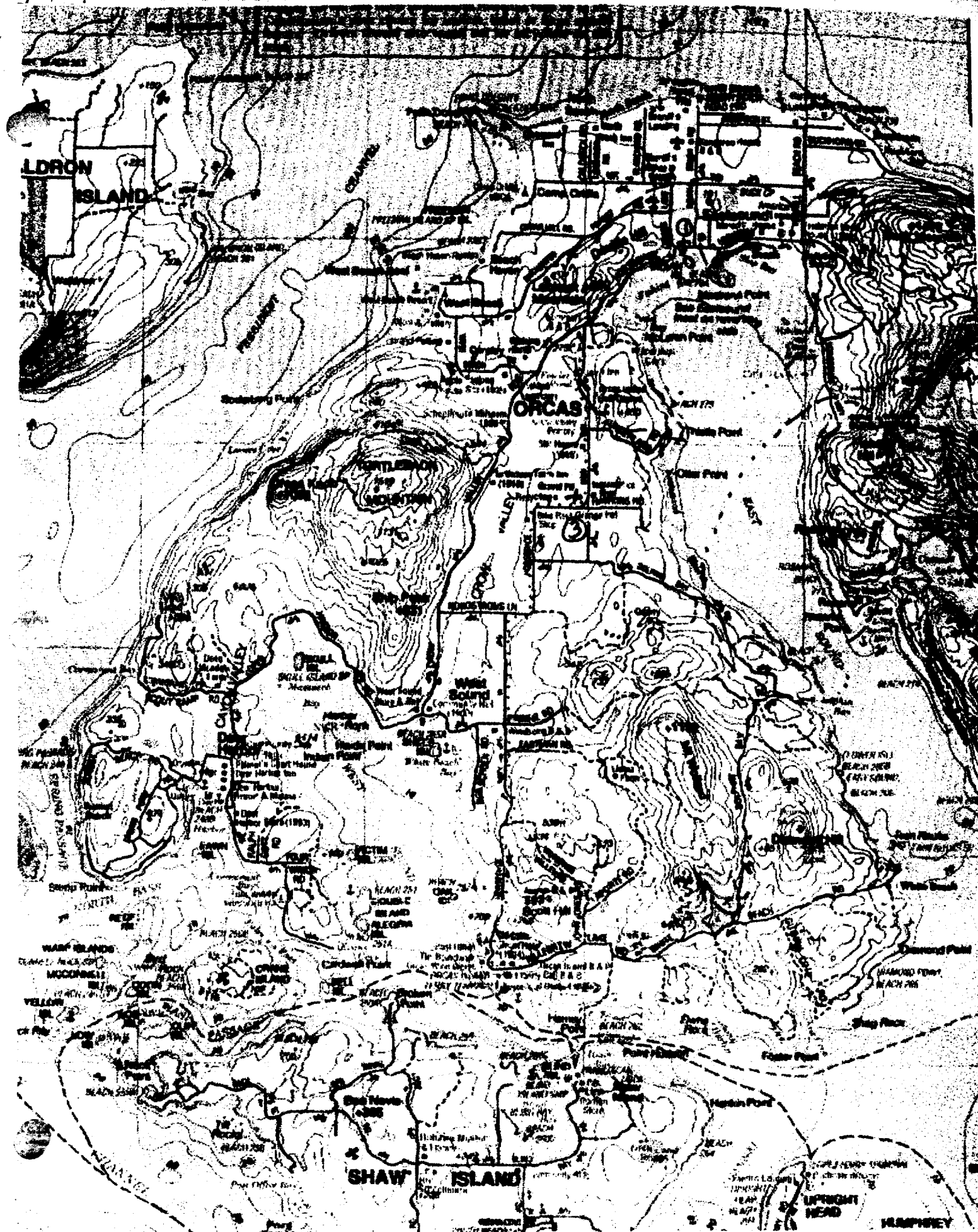
Dear Terry,

I applaud your efforts to establish a local FM radio station. Because of our isolation and rural situation, no commercial station has entered the county. Currently, there is no single source to communicate emergency information that specifically applies to our county residents in a timely manner. Our weekly newspaper does not fill that need.

As the major provider of fire and emergency medical services, I deem it critical that your efforts succeed. Please count on my support for you to get the strongest transmitter possible. It is essential for the safety of our community that a communications link, such as the one you are trying to establish, be placed into service.

Sincerely yours,

Gary D. Bennett  
District Chief



# Orcas Island

